

Message Text

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SUBJ: "OVERSEAS AID -- WHY AND HOW": SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR
MARSHALL GREEN

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, IN AN ADDRESS TO
THE COMBINED SERVICES CLUBS IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA ON
JUNE 4, CALLED FOR RENEWED COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO
OVERSEAS AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
HE TOLD THE SERVICES CLUBS: "FOR MY PART, I THINK FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE IS VITAL FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THIS
PLANET. I THINK IT SPEAKS WELL FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION --
DEDICATED TO SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY -- THAT YOU CHOOSE
THIS SUBJECT FOR MY ADDRESS TODAY."

EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

FROM OUR MANY YEARS OF AID GIVING, WE HAVE LEARNED
A GOOD DEAL ABOUT WHAT AID CAN DO AND WHAT IT CANNOT DO.
IT IS NOT A CURE-ALL FOR INTERNATIONAL STABILITY OR POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT OR EVEN ECONOMIC PROGRESS. AID IS LITERALLY
"ASSISTANCE". IT MEANS THAT WE HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEM-
SELVES, THOUGH THAT OUTSIDE HELP MAY BE THE CRITICAL FACTOR.

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I STRESS THE WORD HELP, FOR IT IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

BETWEEN THE AID GIVER AND THE AID RECIPIENT. THE COMMON TASK MUST BE APPROACHED WITH REALISM. MANY FRUSTRATIONS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS ARISE FROM THE GAP BETWEEN EXPECTATIONS AND ACTUAL RESULTS. THEREFORE, THERE MUST BE A HEALTHY UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DONOR AND THE RECEIVER AS TO WHAT IN FACT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AID.

AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT REALITY IN AID GIVING IS THAT ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUST DO THEIR SHARE AND THEIR EFFORTS MUST BE COORDINATED IN AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO ENSURE THAT MAXIMUM USE IS MADE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE RECEIVING COUNTRIES.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LARGEST SINGLE DONOR OF AID AND HAS THE LONGEST RECORD OF SUBSTANTIAL AID GIVING. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY GENEROUS IN AID GIVING, SO THAT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TODAY WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE COMBINED CONTRIBUTIONS OF MANY COUNTRIES.

NO COUNTRY CAN TAKE ON THE JOB ALONE. WE HAD TO ASSUME THAT UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY IN A WORLD TORN APART BY WORLD WAR II. AT THAT TIME OUR RESOURCES WERE SO PREPONDERANT THAT WE COULD SOLVE PROBLEMS BY SIMPLY OVERWHELMING THEM WITH OUR RESOURCES. BUT THAT IS NO LONGER TRUE. THE VERY SUCCESS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN IN POST-WAR EUROPE CAUSED SOME OF OUR PEOPLE TO IMIAGINE THAT WE KNEW WHAT WAS BEST FOR EVERYONE ELSE AND THAT WE HAD THE RESOURCES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US OTHERWISE.

WE REALIZE THAT WE MUST ENLIST THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. THIS RESULTS IN MORE AID, AND THE VERY FACT THAT THIS AID COMES FROM MANY SOURCES THAT THE RECEIVING COUNTRY FINDS IT MORE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE. IT MEANS THAT THE RECEIVING COUNTRY DOES NOT BECOME DEPENDENT UPON OR BEHOLDEN TO A PARTICULAR COUNTRY.

WE ACCORDINGLY SEE NOT ONLY MORE COUNTRIES GIVING AID, BUT WE SEE THEM EXTENDING THEIR ASSISTANCE
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INCREASINGLY THROUGH MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OR THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. ALSO, RECEIVING COUNTRIES ARE INCREAINGLY SETTING UP THEIR OWN DONOR GROUP ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT ALL OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IS COORDINATED.

DURING THE 1960'S, INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SCORED SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES. FIRST OF ALL, THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCREASED EVERY YEAR BY AN AVERAGE OF 5.6 PERCENT. SECONDLY, THE DEVELOPING NATIONS STEADILY IMPROVED THEIR CAPACITY TO MANAGE THEIR OWN RESOURCES, THEIR ABILITY TO PLAN AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS. THIRDLY, THE MACHINERY FOR EXTENDING ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS BEING PERFECTED, WITH THE RESULT THAT AID WAS BETTER COORDINATED AND DIRECTED TOWARDS PRIORITY NEEDS.

AS FAR AS THE COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA WERE CONCERNED, THEY CONTINUED TO NEED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, BUT BY 1969 THEY WERE FAR BETTER ABLE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THEY WERE EVER MORE ANXIOUS TO TAKE THEIR OWN INITIATIVES AND TO FIND "ASIAN SOLUTIONS FOR ASIAN PROBLEMS".

ONE OF THE MOST ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN AID GIVING WAS THE SUCCESS OF CAREFULLY PLANNED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING PROGRAMS WHICH RESULTED IN ENLARGING THE POOL OF MEN AND WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS OR THE PROFESSIONS WHO HAD THE SKILLS AND OUTLOOK REQUIRED FOR TACKLING ASIA'S PROBLEMS. (FOR EXAMPLE, MANY OF THE NEW ECONOMIC LEADERS OF INDONESIA RECEIVED POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES. WHEN GENERAL SUHARTO CAME TO POWER THEY WERE THE INTELLECTUAL FORCE BEHIND HIS SUCCESSFUL STABILIZATION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS. IT WAS WITH THEIR ASSISTANCE THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO GAVE SOUND ECONOMIC DIRECTION TO HIS COUNTRY.

THE MIRACLE OF JAPAN'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS KNOWN TO ALL. LESS SPECTACULAR PERHAPS, BUT REMARKABLE NONETHELESS, ARE THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE

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REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

PROGRESS IN THESE COUNTRIES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE IMPETUS OF OUR AID PROGRAMS, BUT IN SAYING THAT I WANT TO STRESS THAT THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC PROGRESS WAS THE INDUSTRIOUSNESS OF THE ASIAN PEOPLES CONCERNED. THE COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA TODAY REQUIRE CONSIDERABLY LESS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THAN IN THE PAST. I SAY THIS TO UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT AID GIVING IS NOT A RATHOLE OPERATION. ON THE CONTRARY, WHAT WOULD BE THE SITUATION IN EAST ASIA TODAY HAD WE ALL NOT DONE WHAT WE DID TO HELP? IT WOULD BE A FAR LESS STABLE AND PERHAPS EXPLOSIVE EAST ASIA.

HAVING SAID ALL THIS, I DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE YOU WITH

THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
HAVE BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES HAVE
BEEN GROWING. YET THE GAINS OF THE LAST DECADE HAVE BEEN
UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED AND TOO OFTEN OFFSET BY UNCHECKED
POPULATION GROWTH. THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR
COUNTRIES IS ACTUALLY WIDENING. THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH
AND POOR WITHIN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS WIDENING.

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